

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to take this opportunity to weigh in on how biomass fits into the Renewable Energy Portfolio and the Manomet Study.

First, I would like to ask that taxpayer dollars not be used to fund a technology that is clearly not renewable nor clean. That money should be going to needier alternatives such as geothermal, solar, wind and conservation. Burning large quantities of trees is just as dirty, if not dirtier, than coal, the effects of which will be with us for decades to come at the very least.

Secondly, I ask that all new wood burning electric plants not be permitted nor given incentives.

Finally, it makes sense that the impacts of Combined Heat and Power plants be studied further. If a few large biomass plants are dirty, then many small ones will be just as polluting. Adding heat into the equation doesn't make them any cleaner.

Citizens of this state have been rallying against these ill-conceived projects as demonstrated with the successful statewide ballot initiative and the recent landslide victory against biomass in Greenfield (which, sadly, has not yet defeated the proposed project there). But this is not just a Massachusetts phenomenon as grassroots efforts are growing exponentially across the country. Scientists and environmental lobbyists such as EWG (<http://www.ewg.org/clearcut-disaster>) are also weighing in as well. Please listen to these important voices by taking biomass out of the Renewable Energy Portfolio.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to weigh in on this very important matter.

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